

BATTLE OF LENS
RAGING FIERCELY
WITH NEW VIGOR

Sharp Fighting Takes Place
Southeast of Loos, British
Announce.

THE SUPREME CONTEST

Gen. Haig Rips New Gashes into Teu-
ton Defense, Gaining More Ground
and Taking Prisoners.

(By the International News Service.)
London, April 22.—A new battle of Lens is raging.
"Sharp fighting occurred throughout the day southeast of Loos." This is the laconic way British headquarters referred to it in its night bulletin. Even more "laconic" is Berlin's official mention of it: "Infantry fighting is proceeding near Loos."
What is actually happening on that blood-soaked battlefield is the supreme contest between Britons and Teutons for the great French mining city Lens and its rich coal producing environs, called "France's black district."

Just a Week Ago,
It was exactly a week ago today that Sir Douglas Haig's forces—the Canadians in the fore-swept down upon Lens in their mighty onslaught, only to be halted by almost superhuman tenacity of resistance in the very outskirts. "Lens has fallen" was the word then flashed from the front.

But when evening came the Teutons still held the city and the British high command had decided that the city was not quite "ripe" yet. So for a full week the titanic array of guns has been paying the way for new onslaughts. Gen. Haig, the British master of artillery warfare, directing the unceasing bombardment.

The British night report shows that already the forces of Gen. Haig have ripped new gashes into the Teuton defense, gain of further ground being announced southeast of Loos, as well as the capture of prisoners.

Now in Full Swing.
Earlier in the day a British advance had been announced, together with the repulse of three violent Teuton counter-thrusts. But the real battle did not begin until late this afternoon. It is now in full swing. It is expected that the British will not rest until Lens is in their hands.

Meanwhile the French army in the Champagne had its hands full beating off a series of vigorous attacks by the crown prince's forces. One of the bitterest hand-to-hand battles of the whole war took place around Meusevalles, where the Teutons charged again and again into the horizon blue lines. The French, Paris announced tonight, held all their ground and inflicted terrific losses on the Teuton attackers.

BOLD HOLD-UP STAGED
NEAR POLICE OFFICES

Negro Demands Money of Woman at
Point of Revolver.

Almost opposite police headquarters and but half a block from where a crossing policeman is usually stationed, a negro entered the store of Mrs. Santina Freschi, 304 Fourteenth street northwest, last night at about 10:30 o'clock, and pointing a large revolver at her head demanded all the money in the cash drawer.

Mrs. Freschi ran screaming into the rooms in back of the store, where her husband was, and the negro was scared off without having time to touch the cash drawer. Pursued by Freschi, who later returned and informed the police of the incident.

According to the woman, the negro, whom she described as being very large and brown-skinned, entered the store and ordered a glass of soda water. She says he paid for the drink with a nickel and then asked her for a glass of plain water. She drew the glass of water and was rising with it when he pointed a revolver at her and demanded the money.

Two children, Paul and Jennie Aronstone, who live across the street, attracted by the woman's screams, observed the negro as he ran out of the store. They say he turned up Ohio avenue in the direction of the Mall. The children as well as the woman state that they can identify the man.

HOTEL CLERK ADMITS
TAKING GUEST'S MONEY

Henry S. Grogan Arrested, Charged
with Stealing \$900, Confesses.

Henry S. Grogan, white, 23 years old, employed as a clerk at the National Hotel, last night confessed to the police that he had stolen \$900 left in the hotel safe by a guest last Thursday.

The money was discovered missing on that day and the fact immediately reported to the police. Detective Sgt. F. Bauer was assigned to the case.

After making a thorough investigation the headquarters detective yesterday arrested the hotel clerk. At 10:30 last night Bauer examined Grogan, and after catching him in several conflicting statements the clerk confessed having stolen the money and hiding it in an empty shaving-soap tube. The money was found intact with the exception of \$5, which Grogan says he spent.

The arrested man says he is married and is from Virginia.

GERMAN BATTLESHIP
REPORTED BLOWN UP

Teuton Vessel Rumored to Have Been
Destroyed at Wilhelmshaven.

Amsterdam, April 23 (Monday).—A German battleship is believed to have been blown up in the big naval port of Wilhelmshaven.

The Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant learns that a terrific explosion occurred in the port last Friday. The shock was felt many miles around.

Three Big Explosions Wreck
New Jersey Chemical Plant;
Fire Now Raging Unchecked

(By International News Service.)
Kearney, N. J., April 22.—Three heavy explosions, followed by fire, wrecked half of the Seaboard Bi-Products Plant, in the meadows on the Hackensack River near here tonight.

One man, a watchman, was killed outright. The explosions occurred in rapid succession, beginning at 8:33 o'clock. They broke out in the laboratory building and quickly spread to a toolhouse and to the administration building, which was in the course of construction.

The fire is still burning fiercely, and twelve more big tanks filled with benzoin are in peril of going up. Firemen are helpless, and there is only one hydrant at the plant from which they can draw water.

'On to Calais' Is Teuton Cry
As 'Mosquito' Fleet Shells
Coast, Aided by Aeroplanes

Coveted French Seaport, To-
gether with Dunkirk, Ob-
jects of Attack by German
Forces.

(By the International News Service.)
Paris, April 22.—"On to Calais." This watchword, which more than once has electrified the German people since the outbreak of the war, and which twice inspired the Kaiser's western army to terrific, though ultimately frustrated thrusts in Northern Belgium and France, appears to have been revived.

A large German "mosquito" flotilla bobbed up suddenly off the big French seaport last night and subjected it to spirited bombardment, hurling fully 100 shells into the city and its environs.

"A large number of civilians were killed and twelve persons were slightly wounded," says the brief statement reporting the raid.

At the same time, a squadron of German aeroplanes appeared over Dunkirk, the second French port so often mentioned as one of the Kaiser's most coveted war prizes, and covered it with a hail of bombs.

"Three persons were slightly wounded," says the official report of this raid, adding, "the material damage was slight."

Dunkirk lies half way between Ostend and Calais, some twenty-four miles to the east of the latter port. It is between Dunkirk and Calais, on the French side, and Dover and Folkestone on the other, that most of the British transports to France are believed to be plying.

Last night's raids on the two French ports came upon the heels of a daring German torpedo destroyer raid on Dover, which, however, ended disastrously for the Germans, two, possibly three, Teuton destroyers having been sunk and the others put to flight by two vessels of the Dover patrol.

Military and political observers who look for a new German drive on Dunkirk and Calais point out that such an undertaking could not be risked until Hindenburg is absolutely convinced that his lines in France, especially before Douai and Lecon, cannot be actually broken and "rolled up."

CONFEREES TO REPORT
ON BOND BILL TODAY

Points of Disagreement in Measure
Will Be Settled Speedily.

The conference report on the points in disagreement between the Senate and House over the \$7,000,000,000 bond issue will be rendered to the House of Representatives when it assembles today. According to the original plans of the House the business before that body will be the administration selective draft bill, but a conference has the legislative right of way, and so soon as Chairman Kitchin, for the conferees, shall decide to call the matter to the attention of the House, it automatically takes precedence.

It is not believed that there will be extended debate over the relinquishment by the House of its contention in the recent conference. The House conferees have accepted the Senate amendments, almost without exception, under which the Secretary of the Treasury is empowered to deposit funds accruing from the sale of the bonds in trust companies and banks not members of the Federal Reserve System, as well as with the member banks, and originally written into the bill.

The conference report, once out of the way in the House, will have similar rights in the Senate, where its consideration in the course of the afternoon is promised.

The engrossed bill probably will be delivered to President Wilson for his approving signature not later than tomorrow morning.

Sailor Fires a Shot.
At His 'Sister Susie'

Women of the Navy League who have been urging the purchase of yachts and the knitting of socks and other warming habiliments for the jacksies of Uncle Sam's navy were shocked yesterday to receive verified criticism from one of the sailors. It came as the answer to a card from one of the knitters, who had inserted the little paste-board, bearing her name, in the toe of her first production. This is it: "Some socks—some fit."

"I use one for a hammock and one for a mitt."

"I hope I shall meet you when I've done my bit; but who in the devil 'taught you to knit?'"

ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR (left), British foreign secretary, and Robert Lansing (right), Secretary of State, taken in Union Station as the British commission arrived.



Crowds Cheer Balfour Party
While Train Whistles Shriek
And Allies' Flags Are Waved

The most completely perfect spring day that ever graced a ceremonial occasion in the National Capital was what Washington awoke to find yesterday morning. Overnight the city had sprung into a veritable conflagration of brilliant bunting. Not only from the splendid residences lining the prospective route of the distinguished Britons from the great Presidential entrance to the Union Station to the Sixteenth street palace which will be their home during the stay in Washington, but in the business sections, the apartment house regions, and even in the more obscure quarters of the town the Stars and Stripes mingled with the Union Jack and the tricolor of France in gay intimacy.

As the hour of the arrival of the British commission approached, the streets leading to the Union Station became thronged with strollers, motor car drivers, equestrians, and cyclists, all moving toward the one objective. Many carried flags, and the vast crowd that did not pass a fluttering bouquet of entirely ally bunting, with once in a while the warm, red, gold and black of the banner of despoiled Belgium adding its little note of sympathy to the decoration.

From the graceful Venetian masks in front of the great white granite station house, they were too big to utter the flags of Great Britain, France, and the United States. They had been formally raised with much blaring of bugles and due ceremony at 7 o'clock in the morning. It was the beginning of Washington's reception to her distinguished visitors.

At 2:30 o'clock a battalion of uniformed policemen tramped into Union Station plaza. They found awaiting them the regular station bluecoats and nearly a hundred Central office detectives and Secret Service operatives. The policemen quickly cleared the entire eastern end of the vast concourse in readiness for the arrival of the special train.

A few moments later up trotted Troops C and D, of the Second United States Cavalry, the guard of honor. Dismounting, they awaited the coming of the party, while State Department officials, army and navy officers, and the heads of the District of Columbia government waited in the vestibule.

Continued on page two.

Congress Today Renews Fight
Over Selective Draft System

Conscription will hold the attention of both Senate and House for the earlier days of this week. The selective draft bill is the business before the Congress in both its branches, and with the exception of voting approval on the conference report on the \$7,000,000,000 bond issue, the bill will be the only one to be acted in either house until conscription has been written into the law of the land or defeated.

The fight for the administration in the House starts with the handicap of an unfavorable report from the Committee on Military Affairs, where the majority of the committee has drafted a bill committing the country to a "try-out" of the volunteer system before resorting to conscription. Representative Kahn, the California Republican, who has been delegated to wage the administration's battle against the committee majority, headed by Chairman Dent, an Alabama Democrat, is convinced that the administration ultimately will win a victory.

The way is hard, he admits, and the excuse will be advanced by the administration's opponents that the committee's bill gives the President complete authority to resort to conscription in the event the volunteer appeal fails to win recruits.

The contention of the administration supporters will be that in shifting from the one system to the other the army will be modernized, and that the conscriptive system is fairer, honest, more democratic, and less extravagant than the volunteer method. Also it will be pointed out in answer to the anti-conscription contention that the committee's bill, by leaving the choice of time for the enforcing of conscription up to the President, leaves the burden of resorting to conscription on the shoulders of the executive department of the government and dodges that joint responsibility for action which the Constitution entails.

The conscription fight in the Senate is already under way. It is believed that

BRITISH MISSION
WARMLY GREETED
BY GAY THROUGHS

Party Escorted to Long Residence By
U. S. Officials. Balfour, Smiling,
Poses for Cameramen.

The British war mission, headed by Foreign Secretary Arthur J. Balfour, arrived safely yesterday afternoon, and after passing through cheering throngs at the Union Station and through the crowded streets which led to the home of Breckinridge Long, in Sixteenth street, the members of the mission are resting up for the labors that await them. The tension of the last ten days was relaxed last night, now that the distinguished visitors are here.

So far as could be learned, there was no untoward incident from the time the mission left British shores until it arrived in Washington.

When Mr. Balfour made his way from the Presidential room in the east end of the station, accompanied by Secretary of State Lansing and Col. Harts, President Wilson's military aide, there was a storm of handclapping and cheering.

Balfour Raises Hat.
As he entered the gateway, Mr. Balfour acknowledged the enthusiastic popular reception by raising his hat, which he carried as he walked between the banks of people to a waiting automobile.

Outside the station there were thousands afoot and in automobiles. Everywhere the national colors were displayed and many women had British flags. Automobiles joined their horns and sirens to the handclapping and cheering when Mr. Balfour appeared in front of the station.

"This is very, very moving," said the British secretary to Mr. Lansing as they were stepping into their automobile. He recalled his first visit to the United States in 1870. At that time he had just been graduated from Cambridge, and was making a tour of the world. That he recalled the difference forty-seven years had made in his life was evident from a remark he dropped later to Mr. Geoffrey Butler, of the British foreign office, who is a member of the mission.

Accommodates Cameramen.
When Mr. Balfour stepped from his car in the station he faced a camera. Obliging he stepped to the left while the photographer got his picture. The minute the head of the mission showed himself to the crowds inside the station there began a cheer that grew as he walked toward the gate leading to the concourse.

He walked as though his trans-Atlantic trip and his railway journey had rested easily upon him, and he chatted affably with Mr. Lansing. Just as he turned through the gateway a small Belgian flag was waved by a woman on the front line. The foreign secretary turned for a moment from Mr. Lansing and waved his hat in direct acknowledgment.

In front of the station another camera awaited. Secretary Lansing evidently thought that Mr. Balfour must be tiring and suggested that he did not want to be bothered again by photographers.

"Indeed, no. Do not send him away," he said to Mr. Lansing, and again he held back so that the photographer might get the advantage of the best light. He seemed in the best of spirits from the time he stepped from the train until he entered the Long residence, which has been engaged for him and members of the mission during their stay in Washington.

Just how long this will be there is no way of telling. Discussing this last night, Mr. Butler said that everything depended upon developments.

Mr. Butler made it clear that the British mission will be in Washington for some time.

U. S. ENVOYS
GOING ABROAD

President Wilson shortly will name commissions composed of American business men and economists to go to France, Russia and Italy.

The commission to Russia probably will be the first named, because of the moral effect such a commission would have in helping to solidify the people behind the government.

Prof. Harper, of the University of Chicago, who recently has been in Russia, is said to be President Wilson's choice for chairman of the commission. Prof. Harper is said to be intimately acquainted with the Russian economic and political life, and to have given President Wilson considerable information about Russian problems recently.

Elhu Root, former Secretary of State, has been mentioned as the probable chairman of the commission to Russia, but it is now believed that should Mr. Root be sent upon such a mission he would go to France or Italy instead of to Russia.

The probability is that most of the members of the commission will be men from the grain-producing sections of the Middle West, because of the fact that grain is more in demand in Europe than any other class of food supplies, and it is desired to send men who know the grain capacity of the United States to assist in the supply arrangements.

MME. BERNHARDT NO BETTER.
New York, April 22.—Sarah Bernhardt, the famous emotional actress, still is in a critical condition at the Mount Sinai Hospital. A bulletin issued tonight by her physician said:

"Mrs. Bernhardt's condition is stationary. There is no longer any general effect from the infected kidney, but the underlying conditions have not improved sufficiently to make the outlook more certain than it has been."

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